

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An ear warmer, comprising:
2 a cover having an outer member and an inner member, the outer member and the
3 inner member defining an interior region therebetween;
4 a frame, at least a portion of the frame being disposed in the interior region
5 defined by the outer member and the inner member; and
6 a membrane coupled to the cover, the membrane and the inner member of the
7 cover forming a receptacle configured to receive at least a portion of an ear of a user.

- 1 2. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a movable portion and a fixed
2 portion, the membrane has a deployed configuration and a retracted configuration, the
3 movable portion of the membrane being disposed adjacent the inner member when the
4 membrane is in its deployed configuration, at least a portion of the movable portion of the
5 membrane being disposed adjacent the outer member when the membrane is in its
6 retracted configuration.

- 1 3. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the cover has a first ear portion, a second ear portion,
2 and a middle portion extending between the first ear portion and the second ear portion,
3 and the membrane is coupled to a portion of one of the first ear portion and the second
4 ear portion.

1 4. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the cover has an ear portion, the ear portion of the
2 cover has a perimeter, the membrane is coupled to the ear portion along a portion of the
3 perimeter of the ear portion, the portion of the perimeter is less than the entire perimeter
4 of the ear portion.

1 5. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the frame is configured to extend around a back of a
2 head of the user.

1 6. The ear warmer of claim 1, the membrane is a first membrane, the receptacle is a first
2 receptacle, the ear warmer further comprising:
3 a second membrane coupled to the cover, the second membrane and the inner
4 member of the cover forming a second receptacle configured to receive at least a portion
5 of another ear of the user.

1 7. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the membrane is coupled to the outer member of the
2 cover.

1 8. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the membrane is coupled to the inner member of the
2 cover.

1 9. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein a portion of the membrane is disposed between the
2 inner member of the cover and the outer member of the cover.

1 10. The ear warmer of claim 1, wherein the frame and the membrane are configured to
2 collectively secure the ear warmer to a head of the user.

1 11. An ear warmer, comprising:

2 a frame having a first ear portion, a second ear portion, and a band extending
3 between the first ear portion and the second ear portion;

4 a cover member coupled to the frame such that at least a portion of the first ear
5 portion is covered by the cover member; and

6 a membrane coupled to at least one of the cover member and the frame, the
7 membrane and the cover member forming a receptacle configured to receive at least a
8 portion of an ear of a user.

1 12. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the membrane has a movable portion and a fixed
2 portion, the membrane has a deployed configuration and a retracted configuration, the
3 cover member having an inner surface and an outer surface opposite the inner surface, the
4 movable portion of the membrane is disposed adjacent the inner surface of the cover
5 member when the membrane is in its deployed configuration, the movable portion of the
6 membrane is disposed adjacent the outer surface of the cover member when the
7 membrane is in its retracted configuration, the fixed portion of the membrane being
8 fixedly coupled to the at least one of the cover member and the frame.

1 13. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the first ear portion has a first side and a second
2 side, and the cover member is configured to cover a portion of the first side of the first
3 ear portion less than an entirety of the first side of the first ear portion.

1 14. The ear warmer of claim 11, the cover member being a first cover member, the
2 membrane being a first membrane, the receptacle being a first receptacle, the ear warmer
3 further comprising:

4 a second cover member configured to cover at least a portion of the second ear
5 portion; and

6 a second membrane coupled to at least one of the second cover member and the
7 frame, the second membrane and the second cover member forming a second receptacle
8 configured to receive at least a portion of another ear of the user.

1 15. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the frame is configured to extend around a back of a
2 head of the user.

1 16. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein a compression force applied by the frame and a
2 friction force by the membrane collectively are configured to substantially secure the ear
3 warmer to a head of the user.

1 17. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the cover member includes a first membrane
2 portion and a second membrane portion, the first ear portion including an inner side and
3 an outer side, the first membrane portion being disposed proximate to the inner side of
4 the first ear portion and the second membrane portion being disposed proximate to the
5 outer side of the second ear portion, the membrane having a first position and a second
6 position, the distal end of the membrane being proximate to the first membrane portion in
7 its first position and proximate to the second membrane portion in its second position.

1 18. The ear warmer of claim 17, wherein the first membrane portion has a perimeter portion,
2 the second membrane portion has its own perimeter portion, the first membrane portion
3 being coupled to the second membrane portion along a portion of their perimeter
4 portions, the membrane being coupled along a portion of the perimeter of the first
5 membrane portion.

1 19. The ear warmer of claim 18, wherein the first membrane portion, the second membrane
2 portion and the membrane are coupled together using a binding.

1 20. The ear warmer of claim 11, wherein the frame has a deployed configuration and a
2 collapsed configuration, the membrane being configured to be disposed in a first position
3 and in a second position, the membrane being selectively disposable in one of the first
4 position and the second position when the frame is in its deployed configuration.

1 21. The ear warmer of claim 20, wherein the first ear portion has an inner side and an outer
2 side, the distal end of the membrane is configured to be disposed proximate to the outer
3 side of the first ear portion in its first position and the membrane is configured to be
4 disposed proximate to the inner side of the first ear portion in its second position.

1 22. An ear warmer, comprising:

2 a frame;

3 a cover having an inner member and an outer member, the cover covering a
4 portion of the frame less than the entirety of the frame, the cover including a perimeter;
5 and

6 a membrane coupled along a portion of the perimeter of the cover, the membrane
7 having a first configuration and a second configuration, a portion of the membrane being
8 disposed adjacent the inner member of the cover when the membrane is in its first
9 configuration, the portion of the membrane being disposed adjacent the outer member of
10 the cover when the membrane is in its second configuration.

1 23. The ear warmer of claim 22, wherein the membrane and the inner member of the cover
2 forming a receptacle when the membrane is in its first configuration, the receptacle being
3 configured to receive at least a portion of an ear of a user when the membrane is in its
4 first configuration.

1 24. The ear warmer of claim 22, wherein the frame is configured to extend around a back of a
2 head of a user.

1 25. The ear warmer of claim 22, wherein a portion of the inner member, a portion of the
2 outer member and a portion of the membrane are coupled together proximate to the
3 perimeter.

1 26. The ear warmer of claim 25, wherein the inner member has an ear portion with a
2 perimeter, and the membrane has an edge portion, the edge portion of the membrane
3 being coupled to the ear portion of the inner member proximate the perimeter of the ear
4 portion.

1 27. An ear warmer, comprising:
2 a frame:
3 a cover having an inner side and an outer side, the cover covering a portion of the
4 frame less than the entirety of the frame, the cover including a perimeter; and
5 a membrane coupled along a portion of the perimeter of the cover, the membrane
6 having a first configuration and a second configuration, a portion of the membrane being
7 disposed adjacent the inner side of the cover when the membrane is in its first
8 configuration, the portion of the membrane being disposed adjacent the outer side of the
9 cover when the membrane is in its second configuration.

1 28. A method of manufacturing an ear warmer, having an inner member, an outer member,
2 and a membrane, the method comprising:

3 disposing one from the group of the inner member, the outer member, and the
4 membrane between the remaining members from the group of the inner member, the
5 outer member, and the membrane, the inner member and the outer member being coupled
6 together to define an interior region therebetween, the interior region being configured to
7 receive a frame, the membrane being configured to be disposed proximate to an outer
8 surface of one of the inner member and the outer member outside of the interior region
9 such that the membrane and the outer surface form a receptacle therebetween; and

10 coupling the group consisting of the inner member, the outer member, and the
11 membrane.

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the disposing includes disposing the membrane
2 between the inner member and the outer member.

1 30. A method of using an ear warmer, the ear warmer having a frame, a cover coupled to a
2 portion of the frame, and a membrane coupled to the cover, the method comprising:

3 placing the ear warmer on a head of a user with the frame extending around a
4 back of the user's head; and

5 inserting at least a portion of an ear of the user into a receptacle formed by the
6 membrane and the cover, the membrane being movable from a first position on one side
7 of the cover to a second position on another side of the cover.

- 1 31. The method of claim 30, the method further comprising:
2 moving a portion of the membrane from a first position on one side of the cover to
3 a second position on another side of the cover such that the membrane and the cover form
4 the receptacle therebetween.
- 1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the moving occurs prior to the placing the ear warmer
2 on the user's head.
- 1 33. The method of claim 31, the membrane being a first membrane, the ear warmer having a
2 second membrane, the method comprising:
3 moving a portion of the second membrane of the ear warmer from a first position
4 on one side of the cover to a second position on another side of the cover such that the
5 second membrane and the cover form a receptacle therebetween; and
6 inserting at least a portion of another ear of the user into the receptacle formed by
 the second membrane and the cover.